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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members, DDSN Staff, Providers and Advocates
FROM: Beverly A. H. Buscemi, Ph.D.
State Director
Beverly A. H. Buscemi PhD
RE: DDSN Budget Update
DATE: May 4, 2010

Last Friday the full Senate completed its debate on the state budget for FY 2010-2011. The budget adopted for DDSN is very good and mirrors the recommendations approved by the Senate Finance Committee. Please see the attached chart. The next step in the budget process is for the House and Senate to iron out the differences between the two budget versions. Once this is achieved, the compromise must be adopted by each body. Then the appropriation bill goes to Governor Sanford.

Both the House and Senate budget versions appropriate sufficient funding to DDSN to accomplish three important priorities. First, both versions enable the agency to meet ARRA compliance by appropriating the necessary amount of matchable state funding. Second, both versions appropriate funds to maintain many essential services to children and adults in every service area and every disability group served by the agency. Third, both versions restore \$1.25 million earmarked for Early Intervention Services to At-Risk 3-5 year old children that were eliminated due to December budget reductions.

The Senate budget reduces DDSN's base by \$21.9 million or 15%, significantly less than the 28% base reduction in the House version. The Senate uses two provisos to appropriate matchable state funds for services back to the agency. The House uses one proviso and appropriates funding in Part IV of the budget. Part IV funding is contingent on Congress' approval of extending the Medicaid stimulus funding.

Regardless of whether funding is appropriated to DDSN via provisos or Part IV, we must remain aware that this funding, while important, is one-time, non-recurring funding that we will have to spend on ongoing, recurring services. There is no guarantee that next year all of the nonrecurring funding can be replaced as the state is not out of the financial woods. There will be a huge hole in the state budget to fill. It is going to be very difficult but necessary for us to prepare for the future and to meet critical service and waiting list needs.

Right now we want to express our sincere appreciation to the Senate leadership and all Senators for keeping DDSN service funding a priority during their deliberation. We will continue to work together to benefit those we serve.

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